1	2	3	4	5	6
16	Punjab & Haryana	0	0	0	0
17	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0
18	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	117	117	143	229

Grand Total = 606

*Thc information includes in respect of undivided Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand High Court respectively.

Pending cases in Rajasthan and Orissa High Courts

2455. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in both Rajasthan and Orissa High Courts during the last three years in each category, year-wise and State-wise, till date;

(b) what have been the reasons for inordinate delay in disposing of the cases, State-wise; and

(c) the steps State Governments have taken, till date, for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, the number of cases pending in both Rajasthan and

Orissa High Courts respectively during the last three years in each category, year-wise and State-wise are follow:

	No. of cases pending		
	Main cases	Misc. cases	Total
Rajasthan			
31/12/1998	76,052	31,213	1,07,265
31/12/1999	85,943	36,956	1,22,899
30/09/2000	89,649	39,354	1,29,003
Orissa			
31/12/1998	62,652	39,750	1,02,402
31/12/1999	72,827	44,512	1,17,339
30/09/2000	66,912	48,974	1,15,886

(b) The reasons for inordinate delay in disposing of the cases in all the High Courts including Rajasthan and Orissa High Courts, are a mix of various complex factors. These include vacant posts of judges, increase in the institution of cases on account of awareness of rights on the part of the citizens; enactment of numerous laws creating new rights and obligations, industrial development in the country and increased trade and commerce and emergence of socioeconomic measures (legislative and administrative), touching the life of the citizens at all levels, ris<j in population, lawyers' strike etc.

(c) All the High Courts including Rajasthan and Orissa have been requested to follow the steps taken by the Supreme Court such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing all the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficfent time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and manpower of the registry through computer network, for bringing down the pendency. The High Courts have favourably responded.

Efforts are being made with the help of the Chief Justice of India

& the Chief Justices of the High Courts to fill up all vacant posts of judges in the High Courts to expedite disposal of pending cases.

Filling up of vacancies of Judges in Karnataka High Court

2456. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how may vacancies of judges are to be filled up in Karnataka High Court;

(b) what is the number of pending cases in Karnataka High Court and the steps taken for their speedy disposal;

(c) whether Karnataka Government have approached the High Court to reconsider its decision for setting up High Court bench at Hubli; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The approved strength of Karnataka High Court is 32 permanent and 8 Additional Judges. Currently, 31 permanent Judges and 6 Additional Judges are in position leaving one vacancy of a permanent Judge and 2 vacancies of Additional Judges to be filled up. The requisite recommendation from the State constitutional authorities for filling up these vacancies are awaited.

(b) The number of pending cases in Karnataka High Court are 89,768 as on 30th June, 2000. The High Court of Karnataka has taken the following steps to reduce the pendency:—

(i) more practical categorisation and grouping of cases;

(ii) to take up for hearing as far as possible, all the cases listed for the particular day;

(iii) reservation of sufficient time slot for pending cases in chronological order; and

(iv) streamlining of administration through computer network.

(c) and (d) The Committee of 5 Judges constituted by the